IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image having a file and a configuration setting, comprising:

     providing access to the image to allow the configuration setting to be manipulated;

     identifying the vulnerability in the image; and

     eliminating the vulnerability in the image by manipulating the configuration setting or file;

     wherein providing access to the image to allow the configuration setting to be manipulated includes providing access to at least the file and the configuration setting in a virtual environment the image in a manner that allows the configuration setting to be changed by modifying a portion of the image that is associated with a configuration database in which the configuration setting is stored with the result that the vulnerability is eliminated from the image by manipulation of data comprising the image itself, as opposed to by eliminating the vulnerability in a source system with which the image is associated and then creating from the source system a replacement image that does not have the vulnerability.

2.   (Original) A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein providing access to the image to allow the configuration setting to be manipulated further includes providing access to the file and the configuration setting.

3.   (Previously Presented) A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein eliminating the vulnerability in the image further includes updating the configuration setting.

4.   (Original) A method for assessing a vulnerability in an image as recited in claim 1 wherein eliminating the vulnerability in the image further includes modifying the file.

5-25.   (Canceled)